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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

- 1           1. (previously presented) A method for facilitating secure handoff in a network  
2     having at least first and second wireless base stations and at least one wireless mobile  
3     terminal, the method comprising the steps of:  
4           receiving a request from said at least one wireless mobile terminal for a handoff  
5     from said first base station to said second base station; and  
6           transferring security information that was originally supplied by a central security  
7     node and was not used by said first base station from said first base station to said second  
8     base station in response to said request.
  
- 1           2. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein said security  
2     information includes a set including at least a random number, an authenticator derivable  
3     by said wireless mobile terminal but not said first or second base stations, and a key.
  
- 1           3. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein at least a portion  
2     of said security information is used to validate said at least one mobile wireless terminal  
3     to said second base station.
  
- 1           4. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein said security  
2     information transferred from said first base station to said second base station in response  
3     to said request is less than all of the security information received by said first base  
4     station.
  
- 1           5. (original) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein all of the security  
2     information received by said first base station was received from a wireless mobile  
3     terminal validation system.

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1           6. (original) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein all of the security  
2 information received by said first base station was received from a third base station.

1           7. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said transferring security  
2 information from said first base station to said second base station in response to said  
3 request is performed only when said first base station knows said second base station  
4 prior to said receiving step.

1           8. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of  
2 initiating an encrypted link between said second base station and said wireless terminal  
3 when said first base station and said wireless terminal were communicating using an  
4 encrypted link, said second base station using said security information transferred from  
5 said first base station to said second base station in initiating said encrypted link between  
6 said second base station and said wireless terminal.

9. (canceled)

1  
1           10. (currently amended) ~~The invention as defined in claim 9~~ A method for  
2 performing handoffs in a network for providing wireless communication service having at  
3 least first and second wireless base stations and a least one wireless terminal, the method  
4 comprising the steps of:

5           transmitting a request, from said wireless terminal for a handoff between said first  
6 base station and said second base station;

7           receiving a response to said request at said wireless terminal, when said second  
8 base station knows said first base station prior to receiving said request, said response  
9 indicating that said second base station can engage in expedited handoffs with said first  
10 base station; and

11           connecting said wireless terminal for user traffic to said second base station;

12           wherein said expedited handoff employs information about said wireless terminal  
13 transferred from said first base station to second base station.

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1           11. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is  
2 security information.

1           12. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is  
2 security information received from a security center.

1           13. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is  
2 security information received from a base station other than said first or second base  
3 stations.

1           14. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is  
2 security information and includes at least one from the set consisting of: (i) a password,  
3 (ii) a challenge-response pair, and (iii) a challenge-response cipher key tuple.

1           15. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is  
2 security information that is received over a network for inter base station communication.

1           16. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said connecting step  
2 further includes the step of  
3           initiating an encrypted link between said second base station and said wireless  
4 terminal when said first base station and said wireless terminal were communicating  
5 using an encrypted link prior to said handoff request, said second base station using  
6 security information transferred from said first base station to said second base station as  
7 part of said response in initiating said encrypted link between said second base station  
8 and said wireless terminal.

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1           17. (currently amended) A method for performing handoffs in a network having  
2 at least first and second wireless base stations and a least one wireless terminal, the  
3 method comprising the steps of:

4           transmitting a request, from said wireless terminal for a handoff between said first  
5 base station to said second base station;

6           when said second base station does not know said first base station prior to  
7 receiving said request, receiving at said wireless terminal an indication that it must  
8 connect to said second base station without benefit of security information supplied from  
9 said first base station.

18. (canceled)

1           19. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 17 wherein said  
2 ~~information is~~ security information is received from a security center.

1           20. (currently amended) The invention as defined in claim 17 wherein said  
2 ~~information is~~ security information is received from a base station other than said first or  
3 second base stations.

1           21. (previously presented) A method for performing a handoff in a wireless  
2 network having at least first and second base stations and a least one wireless terminal,  
3 the method comprising the steps of:

4           receiving a request, by said second base station, from said wireless terminal for a  
5 handoff between said first base station to said second base station;

6           performing an expedited handoff using previously unused security information  
7 when second base station knows said first base station prior to receiving said request; and

8           performing a nonexpedited handoff when second base station does not know said  
9 first base station prior to receiving said request.

1           22. (original) The invention as defined in claim 21 wherein said step of  
2 performing an expedited handoff includes the step of transferring security information  
3 from said first base station to said second base station.